Compensation for non-exploitation of forests

†234. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether many States including Madhya Pradesh have asked for compensation due to non-exploitation of forest wealth; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government allocates funds to various State/UT Governments including Madhya Pradesh under Centrally sponsored schemes according to availability of funds. For any special consideration, the State Government should approach the Twelfth Finance Commission which is appropriate authority for the purpose.

Ecological disaster due to grounding of cargo vessel, River Princess

235. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the cargo vessel "River-Princess" was grounded at Candolim Beach, Goa in 2000; and

(b) the efforts Government have made to remove this to avoid ecological disaster for fishermen and tourists?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have taken various actions to avoid ecological disaster due to the grounded cargo vessel which *inter-alia* include issuance of directions for removal of the vessel both under section 5 to the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and section 33A of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 followed by filing of cases against the occupier of the vessel for non-compliance of the said directions. Proceedings were also initiated in the Hon'ble Court of the District Magistrate under the Criminal

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.